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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 14 April 3, 1956

Week ended March 31

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Trading on slaughter cattle was fairly active and daily supplies were usually well cleared. Second smallest weekly receipts of the year and anticipation of some improvement in the dressed beef trade after Lent and current non-slaughtering holidays were influences in the week's advances of 50¢-$1.00 or more on fed steers and heifers, instances up $1.25-1.50 on steers. Hog marketings were smallest of the year and prices strengthened for the fifth straight week. Butchers closed unevenly steady to $1.00 higher, mostly 25-75¢ up. Supplies of wooled slaughter lambs decreased but demand was also curtailed and late prices were steady to 50¢ lower than a week earlier.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle receipts decreased and the week's run was with one exception smallest of the year. The reduction in marketings plus the fact that trade members anticipate some improvement in dressed beef prices following Lent and kosher non-slaughtering holidays influenced price upturns of 50¢-$1.00 on steers and heifers, instances on steers $1.25-1.50 up. Cows brought firm to 50¢ or more higher prices while bulls sold mostly steady. Vealer prices were slightly uneven, with little net change for the week. Trading on most slaughter classes was fairly active and daily supplies usually cleared quite readily.

Average weights of beef steers continued well above those of a year ago. The general trend in recent weeks, however, has been toward lighter average weights, and with the proportion of high-Choice and Prime longfed steers gradually decreasing, indications point to a cleanup of longfed offerings in feedlots in the near future. Prime steers made up only about 4 percent of the beef steers at Chicago during the week compared with about 14% just three weeks ago, and the average weight during the same three weeks dropped from 1168 to 1131#. Total number of beef steers at the seven markets a week ago was for the first time this year below that of a year earlier, but the total during the week under review was somewhat larger than the corresponding week a year ago.

Prime 1100-1450# steers cashed at Chicago from $23.00-25.50 with four loads of 1125-1280# weights reaching $26.00, highest price there in four months. Good and Choice steers bulked at Chicago from $17.00-21.50. At other midwest terminals a scattering of high-Choice and Prime steers brought $20.00-22.50, one load Prime 1148# at Omaha $23.25, most Good and Choice offerings cashing at those markets from $16.50-20.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Small to moderate receipts of stocker and feeder cattle and calves at terminal markets were not much different in volume from either the previous week or a year ago. Shipments of steers to the country from Kansas City totaled 4,304, compared with 4,565 the previous week and 4,613 a year ago but dealers at that market still had a moderate number on hand going into the weekend. Although a large percent of the over-all supply continued to be made up of Good and Choice offerings, quality in general was at a somewhat lower level as only a limited number graded above low-Choice. Yearling stock steers continued to predominate. Feeder steers over 800# were seasonally scarce and fewer well-bred, partly-fattened two-way steers were available than during the previous week. The average weight of all steers 500# up shipped from Kansas City was 699#. Only 9 percent of these weighed above 900#, and only 13 percent were in the 800-900# weight range. More or less of a two-way price trend developed. Substantially stronger prices for fat cattle encouraged an aggressive demand for feeder steers 750# up and the limited numbers on offer sold steady to 50¢ higher. Meanwhile, continued dry weather over a widespread area was a major factor in slowing demand for stockers, and even though moderate supplies often proved a supporting factor, prices generally were steady to 50¢ lower. Current price relationship between fats and stocker and feeder classes,

while still not favorable, has shown some improvement compared with recent weeks. At Kansas City, the average price of all stocker and feeder steers 500# up was $4.05 under a year ago while the average price of all slaughter steers on that market was $5.78 under a year ago. Good and Choice feeder steers 800# up sold from $16.00-19.00, those above $18.00 usually carrying considerable flesh. Good and Choice yearling stock steers ranged from $16.00-20.50, a few short yearlings upward to $21.25. Choice steer calves brought $22.00-23.00, heifer calves largely $18.50 down. On stockers, prices were reduced as weights increased. This was illustrated by a six-load string of Good and Choice yearlings which sold as follows: One load 498# $20.40; two loads 555# $19.40; and three loads 635# $18.40.

HOGS

Combined salable receipts of hogs were smallest since last September but were moderately larger than for the same week last year. Prices advanced for the fifth straight week, with upturns most pronounced at eastern Corn Belt markets where butchers closed 50¢ to as much as $1.00 higher than a week earlier. Trend at western Corn Belt points was unevenly weak to 40¢ or more higher, mostly steady to 25¢ higher. Prices at a number of trading centers reached the highest levels since last October. Sow prices varied from 25¢ lower to $1.00 higher, bulk 25-50¢ up. Bulk of the 180-250# butchers usually sold within about a 50¢ spread. Lots grading U. S. No. 1 to mostly 2 were in liberal supply, particularly in the western Corn Belt area, and frequently sold 50¢-$1.00 above mixed No. 2 and 3 lots of the same weight.

The average weight of barrows and gilts at 8 markets for the week was 222# compared with 236# a year ago. The average weight for the month of March was 224# or lightest for a March since 1940 when compilation of such data for the 8 markets was started. At St. Joseph where the proportion of butchers under 200# has been unusually large, the month's average weight of 217# was lightest for a March since 1937. Stocker and feeder pigs at S. St. Paul were strong to 50¢ higher, Good and Choice cashing from $11.00-12.00, some reaching $13.00. At Sioux City, prices were steady, Good and Choice 130-150# selling from $12.50 to mostly $13.00. At Memphis prices advanced 50¢-$1.00, Good 70-130# cashing from $10.00-11.00, Common and Medium $8.00-9.50.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets were moderately smaller than either last week or a year ago. A sizable number of spring lambs was marketed, but old crop offerings still predominated. Despite moderate upturns in wholesale dressed lamb prices, trading on live lambs and sheep was dull at steady to 50¢ lower prices. Poor demand resulting from the observance of Lent and kosher holidays was a bearish factor in the trade. Lambs over 110# were in reduced supply, but were still discounted up to $2.00 per cwt. for around 130# averages. Good to Prime fed wooled lambs sold at $17.00-20.50, mainly at $18.00-20.00, with some around 120# cashing at $19.00 at Chicago. Cull to low-Good wooled lambs turned at $10.00 to $18.00.

Choice and Prime spring lambs sold largely at $19.00-22.25, a few 50-60# lambs up to $30.00 at St. Louis National Stock Yards. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 2 to summer shorn pelts sold at $17.00-19.25, with freshly shorn offerings down to $15.50. Slaughter ewes bulked at $4.00-7.50, a few as high as $8.50. Good and Choice feeder lambs brought $18.00-18.75. A few lots of short-term bred ewes cashed at $11.50 and $12.00 a head.

Continued on page 289.

RECEIPTS, SALABLE AND TOTAL OF LIVESTOCK AT PUBLIC STOCKYARDS
Month of March

Market	Cattle				Calves			
	Salable		Total		Salable		Total	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Chicago	167,373	187,660	176,676	189,563	5,706	5,831	7,760	9,471
Cincinnati	16,775	16,392	20,563	21,379	4,909	5,291	4,910	5,831
Denver	51,643	60,660	65,615	70,044	2,563	4,019	3,685	4,478
Fort Worth	30,070	38,696	43,179	53,452	6,074	10,907	9,935	15,004
Indianapolis	35,879	37,139	36,180	37,455	4,661	6,244	4,661	6,244
Kansas City	85,825	79,954	113,185	116,228	5,776	6,841	9,978	15,599
Oklahoma City	52,234	44,994	58,695	48,691	4,358	6,055	4,682	6,055
Omaha	141,750	175,169	144,799	180,009	4,124	4,437	4,252	4,766
St. Joseph	57,417	63,468	57,847	64,671	3,713	4,330	3,885	5,149
St. Louis NSY	69,562	72,265	83,325	85,106	14,302	16,353	17,862	20,242
Sioux City	95,120	102,686	99,214	105,051	2,355	2,064	3,617	2,351
S. St. Paul	87,857	99,721	91,308	101,812	44,138	48,484	46,195	50,913
Total	891,505	978,804	990,586	1073,461	102,679	120,856	121,422	146,106

	Hogs				Sheep			
Chicago	198,048	227,263	249,625	275,488	32,016	56,372	45,483	70,544
Cincinnati	77,842	65,707	80,418	70,107	1,827	1,277	4,567	1,444
Denver	11,468	13,922	52,331	51,693	100,164	122,655	138,834	145,725
Fort Worth	14,061	9,862	71,737	67,274	81,339	117,736	99,560	138,923
Indianapolis	254,597	245,298	254,597	245,298	4,761	4,730	6,349	4,730
Kansas City	55,217	38,869	62,794	47,785	32,488	26,753	69,293	54,289
Oklahoma City	21,133	17,567	90,029	56,149	11,873	13,044	26,948	14,277
Omaha	161,528	175,633	289,696	252,268	46,877	76,340	62,837	84,361
St. Joseph	125,778	101,666	167,440	131,845	12,933	14,548	55,555	60,811
St. Louis NSY	296,598	231,006	326,120	262,321	12,773	15,887	44,704	50,029
Sioux City	135,129	143,863	167,585	160,024	25,970	45,057	34,599	51,820
S. St. Paul	269,749	232,799	293,717	258,615	45,784	43,772	68,240	68,982
Total	1,621,148	1,503,455	2,106,089	1,878,867	408,805	538,171	656,969	745,935

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

	Hogs	Sheep
March 1956	1,669,000	115,100
March 1955	1,487,500	128,500

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955
Chicago	34,625	44,696	1,351	1,649	40,932	51,623	5,281	11,348
Cincinnati	3,679	4,068	1,226	1,211	14,940	13,670	520	25[illegible]
Denver	11,844	12,218	728	801	2,676	3,204	27,107	17,38[illegible]
Fort Worth	7,457	9,697	1,539	2,340	3,197	2,497	20,688	47,18[illegible]
Indianapolis	8,547	8,486	997	1,532	52,190	51,158	871	75[illegible]
Kansas City	20,602	19,750	1,445	1,183	14,366	8,681	10,029	6,18[illegible]
Oklahoma City	12,804	11,176	1,048	1,509	4,907	3,385	2,465	4,24[illegible]
Omaha	34,755	36,465	898	915	34,791	37,029	12,172	13,73[illegible]
St. Joseph	14,540	15,331	1,027	1,150	30,202	21,593	2,601	1,98[illegible]
St. Louis NSY	17,418	16,370	3,326	3,987	65,095	49,105	3,269	3,942
Sioux City	23,426	21,848	497	588	28,179	29,144	4,102	6,339
S. St. Paul	17,948	22,203	7,926	11,429	45,391	48,123	10,294	8,775
Total	207,645	222,308	22,008	28,294	336,866	319,212	99,399	122,146
Mar. 24, 1956	216,054		24,818		353,784		119,224	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Mar. 31, 1956	331,000	30,600
Mar. 24, 1956	338,000	23,600
Apr. 2, 1955	297,000	24,700

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Three months	
	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Jan. - Mar. 1956	Jan. - Mar. 1955
Steers - 1001# up	306	464	1,157	1,486	3,143	4,877	7,285
901-1000	1,790	1,565	2,606	6,303	9,474	17,911	26,287
801-900	2,441	2,773	3,703	10,939	14,470	37,321	40,641
701-800	3,007	3,508	3,017	13,421	13,787	41,770	42,279
501-700	9,418	10,631	10,995	39,354	45,607	106,587	116,535
Total steers 10 mkts.	16,962	18,941	21,478	71,503	86,481	208,466	233,027
Av. wts. " " "	704#	700#	730#	702#	716#	711#	719#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.97	$16.98	$20.88	$16.82	$20.41	$16.67	$20.00
" " " Chicago	17.77	17.55	21.04	17.22	20.18	16.97	20.07
" " " Ks. City	17.50	17.72	21.55	17.44	21.28	17.20	20.75
" " " Omaha	16.86	16.39	20.68	16.66	20.54	16.47	19.97
" " " S. St. Paul	15.87	15.93	19.19	15.59	18.65	15.20	17.98
" " " Sioux City	17.74	17.73	21.59	17.49	20.89	16.93	20.40
" " " Denver	17.15	14.89	21.71	16.02	21.26	17.30	21.92
" " " Ft. Worth	15.81	16.28	20.31	16.33	19.83	16.31	19.06
" " " Okla. City	16.04	16.38	20.32	16.18	19.97	16.27	19.18
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.29	17.28	21.13	16.65	20.28	16.46	19.78
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.84	15.96	19.12	16.16	18.98	16.15	18.76
Total calves-10 mkts.	4,297	4,869	6,636	19,304	30,435	72,375	95,561
" cows. heifers, bulls- " "	2,728	2,668	3,691	11,143	15,810	34,968	46,467

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	992	1719	382	4.4	6.3	1.6	1241	1299	1219	23.28	22.40	31.14
Choice	12039	17431	13852	53.8	63.9	56.6	1186	1184	1141	20.09	19.36	25.76
Good	7627	6482	8193	34.1	23.8	33.5	1066	1064	1006	17.85	17.35	21.93
Com'l.	1404	1432	1832	6.3	5.2	7.5	969	945	966	15.74	15.32	18.29
Utility	326	228	203	1.4	.8	.8	948	933	921	13.81	13.53	15.60
All grades	22388	27292	24462				1131	1148	1082	19.22	18.92	24.09
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	52	74	113	.3	.6	.8	1209	1233	1288	22.96	22.65	29.04
Choice	10213	8335	6521	64.3	63.9	48.6	1142	1144	1133	19.21	18.37	24.55
Good	4664	3552	5125	29.4	27.2	38.2	1032	1035	1023	16.99	16.70	21.57
Com'l.	706	896	1323	4.5	6.8	9.9	987	985	975	14.72	14.42	18.46
Utility	235	193	330	1.5	1.5	2.5	954	928	935	13.21	12.73	15.79
All grades	15870	13050	13412				1100	1101	1071	18.36	17.66	22.77
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	134	208	12	1.4	2.9	.2	1455	1493	1084	21.35	21.11	29.00
Choice	5167	4063	1545	54.0	56.3	27.3	1176	1183	1144	19.21	18.80	24.80
Good	3764	2670	3461	39.4	37.0	61.1	1099	1074	1058	17.39	17.05	22.32
Com'l.	406	221	485	4.2	3.1	8.6	1017	969	996	14.86	14.53	18.54
Utility	91	52	159	1.0	.7	2.8	919	1050	1036	13.55	13.04	15.95
All grades	9562	7214	5662				1140	1144	1076	18.35	18.13	22.58
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	5	81	--	.1	1.2	--	906	1216	--	21.50	20.43	--
Choice	2025	3119	1948	29.3	46.9	39.7	1129	1114	1108	18.91	18.57	24.80
Good	4206	2599	2504	61.0	39.1	51.0	1048	1068	1018	17.49	16.84	22.04
Com'l.	533	638	377	7.7	9.6	7.7	1049	1029	973	15.17	14.94	18.30
Utility	129	208	77	1.9	3.2	1.6	965	976	919	13.12	13.07	16.60
All grades	6898	6645	4906				1070	1085	1049	17.68	17.30	22.86
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	2607	1988	320	38.6	30.5	8.2	1126	1131	1090	18.47	18.24	25.25
Good	3074	3223	2652	45.5	49.5	67.7	990	1000	1008	17.03	16.93	22.41
Com'l.	931	1187	880	13.8	18.2	22.5	949	960	941	15.45	14.91	19.16
Utility	144	114	66	2.1	1.8	1.6	855	829	746	13.36	13.07	15.61
All grades	6756	6512	3918				1034	1030	995	17.37	16.97	21.89
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	40	14	17	.5	.2	.3	1354	1045	1144	20.50	20.00	26.50
Choice	2907	2567	2898	40.7	46.6	51.3	1135	1126	1121	18.96	18.62	24.71
Good	3417	2428	2324	47.9	44.0	41.1	1066	1058	1014	17.42	17.04	21.42
Com'l.	662	456	345	9.3	8.3	6.1	981	950	978	15.27	14.54	17.54
Utility	111	48	68	1.6	.9	1.2	912	835	883	13.25	12.77	15.19
All grades	7137	5513	5652				1086	1078	1066	17.86	17.60	22.93

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Month											
	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	9543	20564	1792	8.8	17.0	1.7	1307	1278	1184	22.10	21.90	31.27
Choice	60966	68138	58514	56.0	56.4	55.4	1189	1187	1138	19.41	18.88	25.80
Good	31240	25985	36268	28.7	21.5	34.3	1068	1059	1015	17.37	16.82	22.12
Com'l.	5644	4655	7952	5.2	3.9	7.5	975	1003	962	15.23	14.71	18.28
Utility	1418	1439	1140	1.3	1.2	1.1	980	977	892	13.53	13.27	15.40
All grades	108811	120781	105666				1151	1166	1081	18.89	18.85	24.12
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	471	1597	225	.8	2.3	.3	1251	1275	1258	22.36	21.55	29.58
Choice	36455	38011	33334	58.6	54.1	47.4	1154	1157	1130	18.78	18.22	24.57
Good	20951	25007	30509	33.7	35.6	43.4	1050	1083	1026	16.82	16.24	21.53
Com'l.	3444	4682	4963	5.5	6.7	7.0	983	1014	959	14.45	13.87	17.77
Utility	851	885	1313	1.4	1.3	1.9	932	930	915	12.68	11.71	15.23
All grades	62172	70182	70344				1056	1121	1070	21.82	17.29	22.74
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	1044	1586	171	2.9	4.9	.5	1379	1295	1264	21.14	20.52	29.42
Choice	18422	15137	12694	51.6	46.5	38.7	1190	1177	1139	18.84	18.47	24.16
Good	14518	13562	17420	40.7	41.7	53.0	1095	1083	1068	17.12	16.68	21.69
Com'l.	1385	1757	2037	3.9	5.4	6.2	1001	1014	1000	14.70	14.30	17.71
Utility	304	499	521	.9	1.5	1.6	969	1001	990	13.01	12.16	15.00
All grades	35673	32541	32843				1148	1132	1091	18.07	17.58	22.41
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	166	139	26	.6	.4	.1	1244	1075	1208	20.24	20.12	27.14
Choice	11262	11400	8733	39.8	35.4	44.0	1110	1113	1114	18.36	17.77	24.64
Good	13364	14620	9435	47.2	45.4	47.5	1054	1062	1012	16.93	16.31	21.65
Com'l.	3015	4900	1489	10.6	15.2	7.5	1024	1018	971	14.98	14.84	17.87
Utility	524	1157	177	1.8	3.6	.9	980	1052	906	13.04	12.62	15.79
All grades	28331	32216	19860				1073	1083	1053	17.28	16.52	22.75
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	6	42	--	--	.2	--	1102	1126	--	21.23	21.82	--
Choice	7910	5371	1743	29.6	21.6	9.0	1128	1087	1092	18.36	18.26	24.99
Good	12875	14496	11915	48.2	58.3	61.7	1011	1033	1002	16.84	16.40	22.20
Com'l.	5311	4416	4997	19.9	17.8	25.9	952	968	943	15.00	14.44	19.23
Utility	628	520	646	2.3	2.1	3.4	858	906	841	13.03	12.54	15.95
All grades	26730	24845	19301				1030	1031	989	16.92	16.45	21.57
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	151	47	27	.6	.2	.1	1224	1394	1174	20.21	20.16	26.74
Choice	10204	8981	11025	40.7	35.8	44.2	1132	1136	1111	18.65	17.90	24.38
Good	11554	11748	11559	46.0	46.8	46.3	1066	1099	1017	17.07	16.35	21.10
Com'l.	2802	3769	2040	11.2	15.0	8.2	991	1030	1014	14.92	14.44	17.14
Utility	385	555	302	1.5	2.2	1.2	900	954	880	12.93	12.37	14.52
All grades	25096	25100	24953				1083	1099	1057	17.49	16.58	22.25

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955	Mar. 29 1956	Mar. 22 1956	Mar. 31 1955
	DENVER 1/											
Prime	--	8	--	--	2	--	--	1039	--	--	21.50	--
Choice	3656	2768	2894	73.9	70.7	77.6	1159	1141	1108	19.19	18.60	24.49
Good	1250	1055	734	25.3	27.0	19.7	1080	1073	1043	17.59	17.24	22.07
Com'l.	--	64	100	--	1.6	2.7	--	977	980	--	14.95	16.37
Utility	40	18	--	.8	.5	--	999	882	--	14.27	12.25	--
All grades	4946	3913	3728				1138	1118	1091	18.77	18.18	23.84

Grade	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955
	DENVER 1/											
Prime	8	34	24	--	.2	.1	1039	1112	983	21.50	21.00	25.50
Choice	13224	12793	13046	70.1	71.0	73.4	1151	1155	1100	18.64	18.40	24.39
Good	5269	4856	4274	28.0	26.9	24.0	1075	1125	1047	17.07	16.63	22.53
Com'l.	290	330	419	1.5	1.8	2.4	989	1018	1014	13.98	13.34	16.50
Utility	70	22	22	.4	.1	.1	964	938	892	13.42	11.12	14.03
All grades	18861	18035	17785				1126	1144	1085	18.14	17.85	23.78

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and Mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	1,000	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.
Mar. 31, 1956	339	188.1	145	15.2	1,238	162.7	273	13.4	379.4	42.1
Mar. 24, 1956	341	191.0	150	15.8	1,291	169.6	289	14.2	390.6	42.6
Mar. 17, 1956 1/	355	199.5	146	15.3	1,445	191.0	261	12.8	418.6	51.9
Apr. 2, 1955	330	178.1	152	16.0	1,062	149.6	272	13.3	357.0	37.9
Percentage change from:										
Mar. 24, 1956	-1	-2	-3	-4	-4	-4	-6	-6	-3	-1
Apr. 2, 1955	+3	+6	-5	-5	+17	+9	0	+1	+6	+11

Week ended	Average weight (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs 2/		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	
Mar. 31, 1956	1,005	555	190	105	231	131	105	49	14.7
Mar. 24, 1956	1,010	560	190	105	232	131	104	49	14.3
Mar. 17, 1956	1,015	562	190	105	232	132	104	49	14.2
Apr. 2, 1955	966	540	189	105	243	141	106	49	14.7

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Apr. 2 1955
Boston, New York City Area	9,830	13,018	11,585	13,222	58,089	50,747	37,722	49,933
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,569	7,843	1,257	1,311	27,893	25,197	3,002	2.313
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	16,847	15,968	7,744	7,154	100,886	78,406	14,086	9,418
Chicago Area	24,241	25,572	7,585	7,486	50,544	59,280	6,086	5,993
St. Paul-Wis Areas	28,497	28,078	31,967	39,723	101,271	96,856	11,976	10,801
St. Louis Area	14,074	13,099	5,345	4,752	82,372	68,990	8,372	6,295
Sioux City	11,800	7,853	232	11	20,727	14,502	3,687	4,905
Omaha Area	29,747	27,994	657	782	74,592	57,262	13,649	17,943
Kansas City	14,196	13,371	2,749	2,994	34,060	25,893	9,075	10,792
Iowa-So. Minnesota	27,858	25,777	11,482	14,408	280,422	234,464	27,276	27.881
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,674	8,680	7,658	7,782	55,545	46,767	Not available	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,284	6,069	2,819	3,053	27,911	21,798	--	--
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	18,135	17,663	3,728	2,939	53,742	45,930	16,279	13,558
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	13,437	14,979	6,046	6,367	23,518	21,221	21,237	27,116
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	16,945	15,305	847	845	14,696	13,051	29,966	14,302
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	23,824	24,411	2,916	3,180	34,245	29,907	33,389	31,460
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	6,726	6,460	389	469	16,337	15,171	4,675	3,892
Total	278,684	272,140	105,006	116,478	1,056,850	905,442	240,477	238,662
Accumulation to date	3,872,972	3,654,767	1,352,609	1,346,044	16095,203	13,420,267	3,243,012	3,156,690

ACTUAL FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND REVISED ESTIMATE OF MEAT PRODUCTION BY WEEKS, FEBRUARY 1956

Week ended	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs			Total meat prod.	Lard	
	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt. 1/	Prod. 1/	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.		Yield per 100 lb.	Prod.
	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	lb.	mil.lb.
Feb. 4	363	563	204.2	130	114	14.8	1,378	129	178.2	295	50	14.7	411.9	14.7	48.0
11	352	571	200.9	139	114	15.9	1,368	130	178.3	272	49	13.2	408.3	15.1	48.7
18	362	571	206.6	141	114	16.1	1,453	130	189.3	277	49	13.5	425.5	14.2	47.9
25	338	571	192.9	138	114	15.8	1,371	131	179.9	261	49	12.7	401.3	14.6	46.3
Mar. 3	379	568	215.1	151	111	16.8	1,627	131	213.6	298	49	14.5	460.0	14.8	55.5

1/ Excludes lard.

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.98	23.58	30.65	22.42	21.75	28.50	23.30	22.92	28.80
1100-1300	24.30	23.52	31.50	22.20	21.40	29.00	23.30	22.90	29.35
Choice 900-1100	21.00	20.18	26.45	19.85	19.15	25.08	20.18	19.58	25.32
1100-1300	20.82	20.05	26.45	19.72	18.65	25.10	20.18	19.58	25.58
Good 900-1100	17.92	17.38	21.42	17.32	16.65	21.28	16.92	16.30	21.52
Com'l. All wts.	15.45	15.02	17.88	15.25	15.00	18.25	14.75	14.15	18.50
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.85	18.48	23.42	18.72	18.50	22.75	18.72	18.30	22.82
Good 500-900	16.88	16.44	20.22	16.74	16.50	19.88	16.68	16.18	19.52
Com'l. All wts.	14.75	14.40	17.35	14.62	14.50	16.52	14.30	13.88	16.25
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	13.42	13.00	14.75	13.00	13.00	14.35	13.00	13.00	14.75
Utility	12.30	11.88	13.28	12.20	12.12	13.10	11.88	11.75	13.00
Canner & Cutter	11.32	11.00	11.45	11.12	11.00	11.25	10.38	10.25	10.62
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.00	12.90	13.95	--	--	--	12.75	12.62	13.00
Utility & Commercial	15.27	15.06	15.95	13.62	13.62	14.30	13.71	13.62	14.38
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	24.00	24.50	26.60	22.00	22.00	23.30	21.00	21.00	22.50
Com'l. & Good	18.80	19.00	20.90	18.00	18.00	19.00	16.50	16.50	17.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	20.10	19.50	21.70	18.00	17.95	20.00	18.75	18.75	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.45	15.00	16.70	15.50	15.50	17.00	14.50	14.50	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.50	19.50	23.72	19.25	19.50	23.75	19.45	19.38	23.25
Good " "	16.75	16.50	20.78	17.50	17.50	21.00	17.25	17.25	20.62
Medium 500-1000	15.20	15.00	17.68	15.25	15.25	17.75	14.75	14.75	17.75
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	16.90	16.75	19.65	17.00	17.00	19.50	17.00	16.75	18.75
Med. & Gd. " "	14.40	14.00	16.20	14.50	14.50	16.25	13.75	13.62	16.00
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	12.00	12.00	12.25	11.50	11.38	12.25
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.70	19.75	20.00	22.75	20.50	20.50	22.50
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	19.40	16.88	17.00	19.00	17.00	17.00	19.62

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1 2 and 3	160-180#	13.85	12.84	16.95	12.73	11.98	15.65	13.53	12.75	17.32
	180-200	14.65	13.86	17.68	14.18	13.42	16.98	14.80	13.84	17.90
	200-220	14.81	13.98	17.70	14.66	13.92	17.22	14.93	13.98	17.90
	220-240	14.78	13.95	17.50	14.35	13.60	17.12	14.90	13.81	17.78
	240-270	14.66	13.80	17.12	13.95	13.19	16.63	14.48	13.50	17.25
	270-300	14.50	13.55	16.76	13.45	12.70	16.03	14.05	13.05	16.68
Sows –										
	300-330#	12.82	12.10	15.92	13.11	12.35	15.35	12.60	11.75	15.75
	360-400	12.48	11.85	15.58	12.62	11.85	14.85	12.08	11.40	15.22
	450-550	11.68	11.15	14.65	11.61	11.03	13.72	10.98	10.25	14.80
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1 2 and 3	160-180#	--	--	--	14.30	13.35	17.69	--	--	--
	180-200	15.11	14.45	17.90	14.88	14.04	17.88	14.72	14.10	17.50
	200-220	15.11	14.45	17.90	14.90	14.07	17.86	14.92	14.45	17.68
	220-240	15.11	14.45	17.68	14.90	14.01	17.66	14.88	14.45	17.48
	240-270	14.72	14.08	17.18	14.62	13.65	17.29	14.52	14.08	16.82
	270-300	14.32	13.70	16.45	--	13.16	16.73	13.92	13.55	16.08
Sows –										
	300-330#	13.48	12.98	--	12.75	12.20	15.78	13.30	12.88	15.68
	360-400	13.00	12.32	15.38	12.40	11.82	15.52	12.82	12.40	15.22
	450-550	12.20	11.60	14.65	11.58	11.02	14.75	11.82	11.50	14.18
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1 2 and 3	160-180#	13.45	13.20	17.68	15.00	14.34	18.38	15.38	15.25	19.12
	180-200	14.98	14.58	17.80	15.50	14.75	18.66	16.00	15.75	19.75
	200-220	15.00	14.58	17.68	15.50	14.85	18.66	16.00	15.75	19.75
	220-240	15.00	14.58	17.50	15.38	14.78	18.25	15.69	15.62	19.47
	240-270	14.72	14.12	16.92	14.75	14.22	17.75	14.50	14.38	18.62
	270-300	13.72	13.28	16.28	13.25	13.06	17.00	14.12	14.00	18.00
Sows –										
	300-330#	12.62	12.32	15.38	11.56	10.94	16.31	13.00	12.50	16.75
	360-400	12.28	11.82	14.65	11.44	10.94	16.28	10.75	11.50	16.00
	450-550	11.68	11.20	14.15	10.12	9.69	14.31	10.50	10.50	15.12
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	11.25	11.10	17.60	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST – Dollars per 100 pounds									
Barrows and gilts — Mar. 31, 1956	14.55	14.65	14.61	14.67	14.52	14.72	14.33	14.72	14.60
Mar. 24, 1956	13.72	13.82	14.13	14.04	14.10	14.15	13.82	13.72	13.87
Apr. 2, 1955	17.19	17.57	17.40	17.10	16.78	17.36	17.12	17.62	17.28
Sows — Mar. 31, 1956	12.18	12.02	11.87	12.66	12.44	12.30	12.10	11.35	12.06
Mar. 24, 1956	11.68	11.46	11.34	12.21	11.92	11.96	11.68	10.64	11.51
Apr. 2, 1955	15.21	15.22	15.38	14.77	14.85	15.39	14.84	14.92	15.02
AVERAGE WEIGHT – Pounds									
Barrows and gilts — Mar. 31, 1956	233	218	217	224	232	216	218	221	222
Mar. 24, 1956	233	220	218	224	232	216	220	222	223
Apr. 2, 1955	246	221	229	245	249	234	236	228	236
Sows — Mar. 31, 1956	429	409	403	405	393	385	390	436	412
Mar. 24, 1956	424	406	414	394	410	375	393	447	413
Apr. 2, 1955	425	409	420	413	409	403	396	441	416
NUMBER OF HEAD –									
Barrows and gilts — Mar. 31, 1956	31881	59032	13304	29502	24335	26907	39187	46698	270846
Mar. 24, 1956	32200	59513	12027	28469	22860	23876	52561	54396	285902
Apr. 2, 1955	42365	41959	8215	31811	24498	19275	41213	45252	254588
Sows — Mar. 31, 1956	4516	3461	752	2806	1408	1599	2504	3945	20991
Mar. 24, 1956	4416	3540	542	2846	1357	1297	3161	4346	21505
Apr. 2, 1955	3938	2583	312	3134	1781	1438	3163	3083	19432
SOWS – Percentage of total									
Mar. 31, 1956	12	6	5	9	5	6	6	8	7
Mar. 24, 1956	12	6	4	9	6	5	6	7	7
Apr. 2, 1955	9	6	4	9	7	7	7	6	7

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Mar. 31, 1956	$16.64	$14.65	+$1.99
Mar. 24, 1956	16.03	13.86	+ 2.17
Apr. 2, 1955	18.95	17.68	+ 1.27

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, No. 3, yellow 1/ Cents per bushel	Hog–corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Mar. 31, 1956	14.55	136.4	10.7
Mar. 24, 1956	13.72	133.5	10.3
Apr. 2, 1955	17.19	146.2	11.8

1/ Simple average price.

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Month	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -		Dollars per 100 pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 1956	12.98	13.27	13.50	13.32	13.19	13.46	13.04	13.21	13.20
	Feb. 1956	12.28	12.58	12.45	12.52	12.20	12.59	12.24	12.48	12.41
	Mar. 1955	16.11	16.38	16.37	15.95	15.65	16.29	15.95	16.19	16.09
Sows	Mar. 1956	11.24	10.96	11.08	11.59	11.28	11.34	11.02	10.52	11.09
	Feb. 1956	10.62	10.31	10.43	10.56	10.16	10.60	10.13	9.83	10.33
	Mar. 1955	14.37	14.34	14.34	14.20	13.80	14.57	13.93	13.75	14.14
AVERAGE WEIGHT -		Pounds								
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 1956	235	219	218	227	233	217	221	222	224
	Feb. 1956	239	220	222	231	237	221	223	222	227
	Mar. 1955	246	220	225	248	250	230	232	226	235
Sows	Mar. 1956	426	411	409	404	405	386	396	442	415
	Feb. 1956	435	412	424	411	420	400	410	450	422
	Mar. 1955	432	407	420	424	418	399	397	446	420
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 1956	156726	268447	50796	139644	120336	114196	239708	211828	1301681
	Feb. 1956	185831	236881	48581	213554	151718	116328	266372	222601	1441866
	Mar. 1955	190921	204534	35851	153654	125209	93771	205496	223407	1232823
Sows	Mar. 1956	21743	14989	2775	12035	5543	6601	12683	15571	91940
	Feb. 1956	18718	14153	3088	13743	5706	7594	12092	13438	88532
	Mar. 1955	15181	9985	1657	12464	6173	5856	11827	11662	74805
SOWS		Percentage of total								
	Mar. 1956	12	5	5	8	4	6	5	7	7
	Feb. 1956	9	6	6	6	4	6	4	6	6
	Mar. 1955	7	5	4	8	5	6	5	5	6

1/ Weighted average.

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Mar. 1956	$15.79	$13.34	+$2.45
Feb. 1956	15.58	12.77	+ 2.81
Mar. 1955	18.18	16.65	+ 1.53

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No.1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Month	Barrows and gilts 1/ Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Mar. 1956	12.98	2/131.1	9.9
Feb. 1956	12.28	125.9	9.8
Mar. 1955	16.11	146.3	11.0

1/ Weighted average. 2/ Simple average.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Mar. 31, 1956	20.02	19.70	19.38	--	19.50	--	--
	Mar. 24, 1956	20.68	19.92	19.98	--	19.72	--	--
	Apr. 2, 1955	23.45	22.75	22.50	--	22.38	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Mar. 31, 1956	19.35	18.95	18.25	19.40*	18.53	16.95	--
	Mar. 24, 1956	19.98	19.10	18.85	19.75*	18.78	17.25	20.75*
	Apr. 2, 1955	22.75	21.75	21.45	21.70*	20.95	20.60	20.25
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 31, 1956	7.85	6.25	5.25**	--	8.62	6.75	6.50
	Mar. 24, 1956	7.90	6.75	5.25	--	8.90	7.00	--
	Apr. 2, 1955	8.25	8.30	8.12	--	9.50	--	--
Cull and Utility	Mar. 31, 1956	6.00	4.25	4.00 **	--	6.00	4.50	4.50
	Mar. 24, 1956	6.00	4.75	4.00	--	6.22	4.50	--
	Apr. 2, 1955	6.75	6.40	6.62	--	6.38	--	--
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 31, 1956	--	--	--	--	17.66	--	--
	Mar. 24, 1956	--	17.85	--	16.15	18.00	--	--
	Apr. 2, 1955	--	21.12	--	17.25	20.55	--	16.00

*Spring lamb. **Shorn basis.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St.Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul
			Feeders and stockers				
Mar. 30, 1956	4	35	10	11	5	20	5
Mar. 23, 1956	3	36	13	13	8	20	7
Apr. 1, 1955	5	36	13	17	4	27	10
			Slaughter cows				
Mar. 30, 1956	7	10	12	10	14	8	25
Mar. 23, 1956	6	9	12	10	17	10	28
Apr. 1, 1955	12	11	11	14	15	6	30

	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
			Feeders and stockers			
Mar. 30, 1956	7	7	25	45	38	40
Mar. 23, 1956	9	5	20	55	31	35
Apr. 1, 1955	7	10	30	55	37	45
			Slaughter cows			
Mar. 30, 1956	13	7	15	11	18	25
Mar. 23, 1956	12	8	15	11	18	25
Apr. 1, 1955	25	12	15	15	22	23

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Receipts of Western dressed fresh meats were ample throughout. Trading was mostly slow as retailers operated cautiously and volume accounts did not participate actively until late in the week when inquiry broadened for steer hindquarters and some lamb cuts. Lamb supplies included a large percentage of spring lamb carcasses. Increased unloads and limited outlet for veal and calf resulted in a very dull trade. Lamb and fresh pork loins were quoted higher at the outset, and prices on pork loins were well sustained, but mild easiness developed late on spring lamb. Compared with the previous Friday: Steer and cow beef unchanged; veal steady to $1.00 lower; calf steady to $4.00 lower; lamb steady to $2.00 higher; pork loins $1.00-3.00 up; other fresh pork cuts steady to $3.00 higher.

Bulk of the steer offerings were average to low-Choice with a fair showing of Good carcasses. Demand generally lacked urgency, but most wholesale cuts moved out at steady prices, with rounds and arm chucks under pressure until late. Wholesalers encountered considerable difficulty maintaining cow beef prices at steady levels.

Stocks of both veal and calf were moderate to normal. Prices of both classes weakened, with the full decline of $4.00 reflected on lower grades of calf. Lamb receipts were equally represented by old crop and spring offerings. The undertone on old crop carcasses was firm, but part of the early advance on spring lamb was lost in late trading.

The supply of Western dressed fresh pork was sharply reduced. Prices on loins, spareribs and Boston butts turned upward, and the advance was well sustained although some weakness developed temporarily on loins around midweek. Daily clearances were generally complete.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

The pace of trading ranged from mostly fair to slow, with prices mainly steady. Steer cuts, however, sold under pressure, and veal prices carried a weak undertone. Easiness developed on lamb toward the close, while quotations on pork were slightly higher. In a limited trade, kosher classes sold steady to strong. High-Choice and Prime steer carcasses were scarce, with bulk of the reduced kill consisting of Choice carcasses of virtually all weights. Most primal cuts sold at steady prices. Sellers assumed firm price attitudes in transactions after midweek. Kosher purchasers operated selectively, with prices no better than steady to strong.

Veal and calf prices carried a weak undertone but sellers were slow in making concessions. A fair percentage of spring lamb carcasses was included in the week's supply. Early prices for both old crop and springers were slightly higher while easiness developed on the latter toward the close, particularly carcasses averaging 50# up. Kosher lamb foresaddles sold at fully steady prices. Prices on most locally dressed primal fresh pork cuts were higher and daily clearances were satisfactory despite a near record production and an apparent lag in buyer interest around midweek.

Slaughtering operations were interrupted during the week for observance of the Jewish Passover, and volume of cattle and lamb slaughter was smallest of the year. The calf kill was with one exception smallest this year.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Moderate to normal supplies of steer and heifer beef, largely of Good and Choice grades, proved fully sufficient for demand. Veal supply was normal, bulk grading Commercial to Choice. Volume of lamb, pork loins, and spareribs was moderate, but adequate. Limited offerings of Boston butts were in good demand, other fresh pork cuts slow, Wednesday's decline in loin prices being the first in a month Hindquarter cuts of lamb were in best demand, outlet for forequarter meat very narrow. Prime beef cleared readily but carcass trade otherwise was slow. In beef cuts broadest demand was for ribs and loins. Daily advances on carcass beef were influenced primarily by higher live and dressed costs and higher prices received in advanced selling rather than increased local demand. Salesmen found it difficult to break beef profitably due to inadequate prices on various primal cuts. A good clearance of most meats is indicated. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef mostly $1.00-2.00 higher; veal steady to $1.00 lower; lamb steady to $1.00 higher; pork loins unevenly $1.00 lower to 50¢ higher; other pork cuts steady to $1.50 higher. Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks sold mostly at $25.00-28.00; Choice steer rounds $37.00-38.00; Prime loins $83.00-86.00; Choice steer loins $60.00-66.00; Prime ribs $56.00-58.00, Choice $39.00-42.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles sold from $48.00-54.00; legs $47.00-51.00; loins $52.00-59.00; hotel ribs $46.00-52.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Small supplies of most fresh meats were fully adequate for a narrow pre-Easter demand. Choice steer carcasses under 600# and cow beef were in the most limited supply in beef with veal scarce at Los Angeles and calf limited in the Northwest. Volume of spring and old crop lamb and fresh pork was liberal, but smoked skinned ham supply was limited. Most activity was on lamb and smoked skinned hams. Prices compared to last week's close: Steer beef largely strong to $2.00 higher, instances $1.00 lower at San Francisco; cow steady to strong, few $1.00 higher in the Northwest; veal and calf mostly steady; spring lamb weak to $3.00 lower; fresh pork cuts strong to $2.00 higher, few loins $4.00 higher in the Northwest and $1.00 lower at Los Angeles; cured pork steady to $3.00 higher, most advance on bacon; lard steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# sold from $32.00-35.00, few under 600# $36.00 at Seattle; Good 500-700# $30.00-33.00; Commercial $26.00-31.00; bulk Commercial cow beef $25.00-27.00, some softboned to $28.00 in California and $30.00 at Seattle; Utility $24.00-27.00; Canner and Cutter $22.00-24.00. Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought $37.00-47.00, few Choice $48.00 in the Northwest; Good and Choice calf under 300# $34.00-39.00 in California and nominal in the Northwest. Choice and Prime spring lamb under 55# sold at $39.00-46.00, no sales over $41.00 in California; Choice and Prime old crop $33.00-37.00, few to $41.00 at San Francisco. Closely trimmed pork loins under 16# brought $38.00-46.00, few to $47.00 at Seattle; fresh skinned hams under 18# $45.00-50.00; shoulders under 16# $24.00-32.00; Boston butts $28.00-35.00 at Los Angeles only; spareribs under 3# $35.00-41.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $47.00-53.00; slab bacon under 10# $28.00-40.00, sliced 1# packages $36.00-43.00; smoked picnics under 8# $26.00-34.00 in California; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955	Mar. 31 1956	Mar. 24 1956	Apr. 2 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600-700#	40.62	40.62	--	37.55	36.75	49.50	--	--	--
700-800	39.00	39.00	50.50	37.55	36.75	49.50	--	--	--
Choice 500-600	--	--	--	33.05	32.30	40.00	34.00	35.00	40.50
600-700	33.25	33.25	43.30	33.05	32.30	41.95	32.50	33.00	39.00
Good 350-600	29.50	29.50	37.90	28.75	27.55	35.90	32.00	32.25	37.40
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	33.50	26.95	26.25	32.50	29.00	29.00	34.40
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	26.00	30.50	--	--	--	26.00	26.00	29.70
Utility	24.00	24.00	26.50	--	--	--	23.00	23.00	26.40
Veal –									
Prime 80-110#	41.00	40.90	44.00	41.50	41.50	45.40	--	--	--
Choice " "	36.50	36.10	39.70	36.60	36.80	41.90	--	--	43.00
Good " "	29.90	30.70	36.40	33.60	33.80	38.40	43.00	43.00	41.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40-50#	40.60	39.10	46.60	38.70	38.15	44.30	41.00*	38.00	44.00
50-60	38.60	37.20	44.90	36.40	35.70	43.40	--	37.00	41.50
Choice 40-50	40.60	38.90	45.80	38.70	38.15	43.90	--	37.00	43.00
50-60	38.60	37.20	43.90	36.40	35.70	41.40	--	35.00	41.00
Good all wts.	37.00	36.80	43.20	35.90	35.25	39.40	39.00*	35.50	39.50
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8-10# av.	41.60	38.20	47.00	38.20	37.20	44.80	42.40	39.00	49.00
10-12 "	41.60	38.20	47.00	38.20	37.20	44.80	44.40	41.50	48.00
12-16 "	40.20	37.50	46.00	38.00	36.85	43.70	42.20	39.00	45.50
Butts 4-8 "	29.50	27.70	35.00	29.90	26.90	34.40	34.00	34.00	39.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12-16# av.	46.50	47.00	52.00	50.40	50.10	49.10	50.00	50.00	53.00
16-18 "	44.50	43.50	45.00	49.90	49.30	47.60	49.50	49.50	51.00
18-20 "	--	--	--	48.80	48.75	46.25	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6-8# av.	--	--	--	30.75	31.35	45.00	38.00	38.00	53.00
8-10 "	33.00	34.50	39.50	29.20	28.40	42.30	36.00	36.00	46.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	38.00	35.70	47.75	35.30	35.60	49.05	40.00	40.00	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4-8# av.	25.00	25.00	32.50	28.55	28.40	34.20	28.00	28.00	34.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16-20# av.	13.00	14.00	14.50	11.75	11.75	11.60	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.00	15.50	16.00	14.35	14.25	15.45	17.25	17.25	17.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	--	25.00	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

* Spring lamb.

Trading continued slow in the Boston market as approximately nine cars of various greasy domestic worsted wools were moved. There was some encouragement as more potential buyers were looking around and showing interest in all grades of fleece wools. Knitting mills were the principal buyers with bulk of sales in 50/54s fleeces. Prices were slightly easier for some grades. Movement of scoured wools and noils was very slow with a tendency toward lower levels. Activity in the Southwest States continued while severe dust storms in some of the territory States halted shearing. Topmakers and dealers were active in the Roswell, New Mexico section and in Bakersfield, California. Some lambs wool was purchased in Texas. A good portion of the Arizona clip had been sold or contracted. Sales in the fleece wool States resumed quietly after the stormy weather.

Auctions in Australia and New Zealand closed on March 22 and 28, respectively, for the Easter holidays on a firm tone and good general competition, while South Africa closed on March 29 with brisk and animated trading as prices advanced. The South American markets were quiet during the Holiday season.

Fleece Wools - Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple fleeces at 52¢ and 53¢ in the grease cost clean from 98¢-$1.00 while graded 50/54s at the same grease prices ranged from 93¢-98¢ clean basis. Country buyers were paying 40¢ and 42¢ grease basis to the growers.

Territory Wools - Graded territory 56/58s good French combing and staple wool sold around $1.06 clean basis while graded 50/54s good French combing and staple cost $1.02 clean. Grease prices of Roswell wools ranged from 33-5/8¢-50-5/8¢ to the warehouse and were estimated to cost around $1.25-1.28 for the better fine wools and from $1.15-1.18 clean basis delivered for the shorter fine wools. New clip wools were purchased at 34¢-41¢ to the grower depending on shrinkage in California. Colorado wools were purchased at 40¢-45¢ grease basis to the growers.

Texas Wools - Original bag fine and fine medium Texas lambs wools sold around $1.18 clean basis. Short 8 months wool in the Del Rio area at 46¢ in the grease was estimated around $1.11 clean basis delivered Boston, while better length lambs wool cost $1.20 clean, delivered.

Mohair - A small quantity of mohair was purchased in Texas at 76½¢ for adult and 86½¢ for kid to the warehouse. Some dealers were offering 76½¢ for adult and 91½¢ for kid.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on March 29, that approximately 745,000 pounds of C.C.C.-owned wools were sold, from bids received on a total of about 4,671,000 pounds. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory fine, staple and good French	22,595	$1.30
" " " average and good French	28,012	1.2675
" " " low 1/4 blood	14,189	.971
O. B. Fall Texas, average to short	186,805*	$1.005-1.0075
Graded fleece 1/4 blood staple and good French 50/54s	91,476	1.005-1.01
" " 1/4 " " " " " 48/50s	76,418	.9625- .991
" " low 1/4 blood	11,939	- .92
Scoured shorn territory 1/2 blood staple & good French	23,731	1,201-1.271
" " " 3/8s " " " " "	23,643	1.10 -1.14125
" " fleece 3/8s blood staple and good French	180,535	1.06 -1.13

*No more of this class now left in the inventory.

Foreign Wools - Spot greasy B.A. 44s fleeces sold at 85¢ and 86¢ clean fibers present in bond. Greasy Buenos Aires November second clip 36/40s were offered for shipment at 85¢ clean fibers present while Montevideo super-skirted 60s were offered firm at 66-3/4¢ grease basis in bond for shipment.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR LIVESTOCK, FEED AND WOOL 1/

Commodity and unit	Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Jan. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1955	Average Jan. 1947-Dec. 1949
Farm prices -					
Hogs per 100 lb. Dollars	12.30	12.00	10.90	15.40	21.90
Beef cattle " " "	14.40	14.00	13.90	16.70	20.20
Calves " " "	16.70	17.00	16.80	17.40	22.60
Sheep " " "	6.28	6.00	5.78	6.91	9.15
Lambs " " "	18.10	17.70	17.10	19.80	21.90
Wool per pound "	2/.399	2/.402	2/.391	.490	.460
Corn per bushel "	1.20	1.18	1.16	1.36	1.64
Oats " " "	.618	.619	.622	.737	.852
Barley " " "	.925	.915	.924	1.08	1.37
Hay, all baled per ton "	20.60	21.20	21.30	23.00	22.40
Cottonseed " " "	46.80	46.20	45.50	53.40	71.60
Hog-corn price ratio 3/					Mar. av. 1935-54
United States Bushel	10.2	10.2	9.4	11.3	13.6
N. Central States "	10.4	10.2	9.3	11.7	14.5
Iowa "	10.4	9.8	8.8	11.7	--
Index numbers: (Av. Jan. 1910 - Dec. 1914 = 100)					1947-49
All farm products	230	226	226	243	271
Feed grains and hay	174	173	171	198	230
Meat animals	221	215	207	260	334
Prices paid by farmers -					
All commodities	261	259	259	265	240

1/ Estimates of Crop Reporting Board. 2/ Average local market price for wool sold; does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62¢ per pound. 3/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds of hog, live wt.

EFFECTIVE PARITY PRICES FOR LIVESTOCK, FEED AND WOOL 1/

Commodity and unit	Base period price 2/	Effective parity prices 3/ Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1955
Hogs per 100 lb. Dollars	7.47	21.10	20.90	21.40
Beef cattle " " "	7.55	21.30	21.10	21.40
Calves " " "	8.30	23.40	23.20	23.50
Lambs " " "	8.30	23.40	23.20	23.50
Wool per pound "	4/.214	.603	.599	.596
Corn per bushel "	5/.642	6/1.74	6/1.73	1.83
Oats " " "	.301	.849	.843	.866
Barley " " "	.472	1.33	1.32	1.35
Cottonseed per ton "	24.70	69.70	69.20	71.60

1/ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle A, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949 and 1954. 2/ Adjusted base price 1910-14 derived from 120 month, January 1946-December 1955, average, (including an allowance where appropriate for unredeemed loans and other supplemental payments resulting from price support operations) by dividing by 265 percent (the 120-month average of the Index of prices Received by Farmers adjusted to include an allowance for unredeemed loans and other supplementary payments) unless otherwise noted. Base period prices shown apply for 1956 only. 3/ Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect. 4/ Adjusted base price 1910-14 derived from 10 season average prices 1946-55 (including an allowance, where appropriate, for unredeemed loans and other supplemental payments resulting from price support operations). 5/ 60-month average August 1909-July 1914. 6/ Transitional parity, basic commodities 95 percent and nonbasic commodities 65 percent (70 percent during 1955) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION
February 1956 - with comparisons

	February		January - February		Percentage Feb. 1956 of	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	Feb. 1955	5-yr. Feb.av.
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection (thousands of head) -						
Cattle	1,484	1,313	3,180	2,834	113	131
Calves	586	517	1,188	1,081	113	135
Hogs	5,922	4,638	12,628	10,157	128	129
Sheep & lambs	1,163	1,080	2,492	2,303	108	117
Average live weight: (pounds)						
Cattle	1019.0	981.9	1019.7	983.5	104	102
Steers 1/	1054.8	982.2	--	--	107	105
Heifers 1/	899.2	857.2	--	--	105	104
Cows 1/	1020.8	1017.7	--	--	100	99
Calves	206.9	200.8	210.4	207.1	103	107
Hogs	233.1	238.9	235.6	243.1	98	97
Sheep & lambs	102.2	103.1	101.3	101.6	99	99
Average cost to packers: (dollars per 100 pounds)						
Cattle	15.28	17.59	15.47	17.60	87	70
Steers 1/	17.44	21.90	--	--	80	68
Heifers 1/	16.59	20.06	--	--	83	70
Cows 1/	10.74	11.04	--	--	97	67
Calves	17.45	17.91	17.16	17.68	97	75
Hogs	12.49	16.33	11.82	16.58	76	63
Sheep & lambs	18.89	20.50	18.46	20.00	92	79
Dressing yields: (per 100 pounds live weight)						
Cattle	56.0	54.8	55.9	54.8	--	--
Calves	55.5	55.3	55.4	55.3	--	--
Hogs 2/	76.3	77.0	76.3	77.2	--	--
Sheep & lambs	48.0	47.9	48.1	48.0	--	--
Lard per 100#	14.7	14.8	15.0	14.9	--	--
Lard per animal	34.4	35.4	35.2	36.3	--	--
Average dressed weight: (pounds)						
Cattle	570.6	538.1	570.5	539.0	--	--
Calves	114.8	111.0	116.6	114.6	--	--
Hogs	177.9	184.0	179.7	187.6	--	--
Sheep & lambs	49.1	49.4	48.7	48.8	--	--
Condemnations: * (Number of head)						
Cattle	6,002	5,815	12,606	12,302	--	--
Calves	4,356	3,569	9,304	7,741	--	--
Hogs	11,294	9,076	23,384	18,806	--	--
Sheep & lambs	3,350	3,175	6,675	6,392	--	--
Total dressed weight - Excluding condemned: (thousands of pounds)						
Beef	843,077	703,478	1,807,218	1,520,907	120	136
Veal	66,773	56,995	137,457	122,936	117	143
Pork (carcass wt.)	1051,573	851,694	2,264,376	1,902,299	123	125
Lamb & Mutton	56,948	53,174	120,980	111,984	107	116
Total 3/	2,018,372	1,665,340	4,330,031	3,658,126	121	129
Pork, excl. lard	772,981	628,102	1,656,339	1,400,083	123	125
Lard production 4/	203,189	163,743	444,096	367,629	124	124
Rendered pork fat.	9,788	8,023	21,024	17,335	122	124

1/ Also included with cattle. 2/ Subtract 7.0 to obtain reported packer style average. 3/ Totals based on unrounded numbers. 4/ Includes rendered pork fat.
*Partly estimated.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 1956, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

Month and period	Cattle: Federally Inspected	Cattle: Other wholesale & retail	Cattle: Total	Cattle: Av. live weight	Calves: Federally Inspected	Calves: Other wholesale & retail	Calves: Total	Calves: Av. live weight
	Thousand head			Pounds	Thousand head			Pounds
Feb. 1956	1,483.5	515.1	1,998.6	981	586.0	360.4	946.4	206
Jan. 1956	1,696.9	558.7	2,255.6	984	601.9	366.1	968.0	215
Jan.-Feb.1956	3,180.4	1,073.8	4,254.2	983	1,187.9	726.5	1,914.4	211
Jan.-Feb.1955	2,834.3	1,051.8	3,886.1	945	1,080.5	788.8	1,869.3	208
	Hogs				Sheep and lambs			
Feb. 1956	5,922.3	1,194.4	7,116.7	230	1,163.2	155.0	1,318.2	102
Jan. 1956	6,705.3	1,354.9	8,060.2	235	1,329.0	163.1	1,492.1	100
Jan.-Feb.1956	12,627.6	2,549.3	15,176.9	233	2,492.2	318.1	2,810.3	101
Jan.-Feb.1955	10,156.7	2,518.0	12,674.7	238	2,302.9	280.4	2,583.3	101

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. "Other wholesale and retail" slaughter is estimated.

MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 1956 1/

Month and period	Beef	Veal	Pork 2/	Lamb and Mutton	Total meat 2/	Lard 3/
	Million Pounds					
Feb. 1956	1,087	108	932	64	2,191	232
Jan. 1956	1,229	115	1,061	72	2,477	273
Jan.-Feb.1956	2,316	223	1,993	136	4,668	505
Jan.-Feb.1955	1,997	214	1,723	125	4,059	429

1/ Excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat.
3/ Includes rendered pork fat.

Agricultural Estimates Division.

LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 271

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Demand was good for mature slaughter cattle at Western terminals and prices showed a stronger trend at most points. Slaughter steers and heifers closed largely firm to $1.00 higher; cows steady to 50¢ higher, instances 75¢-$1.00 up except for declines of 25-50¢ at Stockton and Ogden. Vealers and slaughter calves averaged about steady; stocker and feeder cattle and calves closing firm to 50¢ higher. Barrows and gilts advanced 25-75¢ or more. Old crop slaughter lambs closed steady to in instances $1.00 lower at terminals with a few sales of spring lambs about steady.

At California terminal markets and at Portland Good and Choice fed steers brought $18.00-21.00 with sales at Spokane, Ogden and Denver largely from $16.50-20.00. The same grades of slaughter heifers ranged from $15.50-19.00 with several loads of average to high-Choice 930-1070# heifers at Denver $19.15-19.25. Most Utility and Commercial cows cleared from $11.00-15.00, a load of Commercial grass cows reaching $16.00 at Los Angeles; bulk Canner and Cutter cows $8.50-11.50. A limited number of Choice vealers brought $26.00-28.50 in the Northwest, other Good and Choice vealers and slaughter calves under 350# mostly $20.00-25.00, Good vealers at Denver down to $17.50. Good and Choice slaughter calves over 350# brought $17.50-22.00 in the Far West, the same grades and weights at Ogden and Denver $14.25-18.50. Stocker and feeder steers grading Good and Choice cleared from $17.50-19.25 at Stockton, the same grades at other points largely $16.50-

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18.00; stocker and feeder heifers $15.00-16.60 for Good and Choice, with a few of the latter grade at Ogden from $17.00-17.25. Stock steer calves cashed from $17.50-20.00 for Good and Choice lots, some 340-400# calves $21.50-22.50 at Denver. Medium and Good heifer calves cleared from $14.00-16.50, Good to mostly Choice $17.00-18.60.

Prices in the direct trade on slaughter steers and heifers at California feedlots averaged steady. Choice steers brought $19.00-20.50 for immediate delivery, some feeders holding for $21.00 or more in Southern California. Five loads of Choice 1050-1225# steers brought $20.00 for post-Easter delivery; 6 loads or more mostly Good steers contracted at $18.50 for delivery up to May 1. A load of high-Choice fed heifers in Southern California brought $19.50, other Good and Choice heifers $16.00-18.50, all sales f.o.b. feedlots at mostly 4% shrink. Several loads of Utility and Commercial cows earned $13.00-14.00. A load of Good 600# yearling stock steers in Northern California brought $18.00 for immediate delivery. Around 800 head Good and Choice 750# grass steers were contracted in Southern California at $17.50, part for immediate delivery. A few Choice stock steer calves sold in Northern California and Nevada from $19.50-20.00.

Mixed lots of U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold at South San Francisco and Los Angeles late at $16.25; Stockton $16.50; Portland $15.50-16.75; Spokane $15.75-16.00; Ogden $15.00-16.00; Denver $14.50-15.50.

A limited showing of Good to Prime spring lambs sold at terminal markets from $19.00-21.00. Late sales of Choice wooled lambs bulked at Denver at $19.75, a few $20.00, numerous loads selling during the week from $18.50-19.25. Good and Choice old-crop slaughter lambs mostly with No. 1 pelts or better cleared at other terminals from $17.00-19.25. Direct trade on California spring lambs was conducted at weak to 50¢ lower prices; sales and contracts ranging from $18.25-19.00; several bands selling for immediate to near-term delivery late at $18.50, some transactions calling for all fat lambs 60# up, others on a sliding weight scale.